WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. An information-processing apparatus including a module which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control, comprising:

a first management unit managing a series of first

10 processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained; and

a second management unit managing a series of indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function that needs exclusive access control,

15 wherein the first management unit starts the management of the first processing steps when a management start request is received from the client or when a request other than the management start request is received.

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2. An information-processing apparatus including a module which provides one or more clients with a function that

25 needs exclusive access control, comprising:

a first management unit managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained; and

a second management unit managing a series of

5   indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the first management unit starts the management of the first processing steps when a management start request and a request other than the management start request are

10   received from the client.

15   3. An information-processing apparatus including a module which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control, comprising:

a first management unit managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a

20   session with a client is maintained; and

a second management unit managing a series of indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the first management unit ends the management

25   of the first processing steps when a management end request is

received from the client or when a predetermined time-out period expires.

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4. An information-processing apparatus including a module which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control, comprising:

10   a first management unit managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained; and

a second management unit managing a series of indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function

15   that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the first management unit ends the management of the first processing steps when a management end request is received from the client and a predetermined time-out period expires.

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5. An information-processing apparatus including a module which provides one or more clients with a function that

25   needs exclusive access control, comprising:

a first management unit managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained; and

a second management unit managing a series of

5   indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the second management unit starts the management of the second processing steps when a management start request is received from the client or when a request other than the

10   management start request is received.

15   6. An information-processing apparatus including a module which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control, comprising:

a first management unit managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a

20   session with a client is maintained; and

a second management unit managing a series of indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the second management unit starts the

25   management of the second processing steps when a management start

request and a request other than the management start request are
received from the client.

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7. An information-processing apparatus including a
module which provides one or more clients with a function that
needs exclusive access control, comprising:

10   a first management unit managing a series of first
processing steps and incidental information in a state where a
session with a client is maintained; and

a second management unit managing a series of
indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function

15   that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the second management unit ends the
management of the second processing steps when a management end
request is received from the client or when a predetermined time-out
period expires.

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8. An information-processing apparatus including a
25   module which provides one or more clients with a function that

needs exclusive access control, comprising:

a first management unit managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained; and

5   a second management unit managing a series of indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function that needs exclusive access control, wherein the second management unit ends the management of the second processing steps when a management end

10   request is received from the client and a predetermined time-out period expires.

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9. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the second management unit transmits, before starting the management of the second processing steps, a lock request to the module so that other clients than said client are

20   inhibited from using the function that needs exclusive access control.

25   10. An information-processing apparatus according to

claim 7 wherein the second management unit transmits, after ending

the management of the second processing steps, an unlock request to

the module so that inhibition of using the function by other clients

than said client is canceled.

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11. An information-processing apparatus according to

10   claim 5 wherein the second management unit receives a lock type

and a management start request from the client, the lock type

indicating a classification of a lock request being sent to the module,

and the second management unit transmits the lock request,

indicated by the received lock type, to the module so that other

15   clients than said client are inhibited from using the function that

needs exclusive access control.

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12. An information-processing apparatus according to

claim 5 wherein the second management unit receives a lock type

and a lock type change request from the client, the lock type

indicating a classification of a lock request being sent to the module,

25   and the second management unit transmits the lock request,

indicated by the received lock type, to the module so that other clients than said client are inhibited from using the function that needs exclusive access control.

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13. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the second management unit determines a

10 classification of a lock request being sent to the module, in accordance with a kind of a function request received from the client, and the second management unit transmits the lock request, indicated by the determined classification, to the module so that other clients than said client are inhibited from using the function

15 that needs exclusive access control.

20 14. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the second management unit transmits, before starting the management of the second processing steps, a lock request to the module so that other clients than said client are inhibited from using the function that needs exclusive access control.

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15. An information-processing apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the second management unit transmits, after ending the management of the second processing steps, an unlock request to the module so that inhibition of using the function by other clients

5   than said client is canceled.

10   16. An information-processing method for an information-processing apparatus which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control, the method comprising:

a first management step of managing a series of first

15   processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained; and

a second management step of managing a series of indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function that needs exclusive access control,

20   wherein the first management step starts the management of the first processing steps when a management start request is received from the client or when a request other than the management start request is received.

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17. An information-processing method for an information-processing apparatus which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control, the method comprising:

5   a first management step of managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained; and

a second management step of managing a series of indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function

10   that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the first management step starts the management of the first processing steps when a management start request and a request other than the management start request are received from the client.

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18. An information-processing method for an

20   information-processing apparatus which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control, the method comprising:

a first management step of managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a

25   session with a client is maintained; and

a second management step of managing a series of indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the first management step ends the management

5   of the first processing steps when a management end request is received from the client or when a predetermined time-out period expires.

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19. An information-processing method for an information-processing apparatus which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control, the method

15   comprising:

a first management step of managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained; and

a second management step of managing a series of

20   indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the first management step ends the management of the first processing steps when a management end request is received from the client and a predetermined time-out period expires.

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20. An information-processing method for an information-processing apparatus which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control, the method comprising:

5   a first management step of managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained; and

a second management step of managing a series of indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function

10   that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the second management step starts the management of the second processing steps when a management start request is received from the client or when a request other than the management start request is received.

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21. An information-processing method for an

20   information-processing apparatus which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control, the method comprising:

a first management step of managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a

25   session with a client is maintained; and

a second management step of managing a series of indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the second management step starts the

5   management of the second processing steps when a management start request and a request other than the management start request are received from the client.

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22. An information-processing method for an information-processing apparatus which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control, the method

15   comprising:

a first management step of managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained; and

a second management step of managing a series of

20   indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the second management step ends the management of the second processing steps when a management end request is received from the client or when a predetermined time-out

25   period expires.

23. An information-processing method for an information-processing apparatus which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control, the method comprising:

5   a first management step of managing a series of first processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained; and

a second management step of managing a series of indivisible second processing steps performed by using the function

10   that needs exclusive access control,

wherein the second management step ends the management of the second processing steps when a management end request is received from the client and a predetermined time-out period expires.

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